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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Reformulated narrative of section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 120 of the report on its forty-first session,[1] the Committee for Programme and Coordination requested the Secretary-General to realign the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[2] in conformity with the medium-term plan and to submit the revised section to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

2. Accordingly, the Secretariat has reviewed the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of section 8. Should the General Assembly decide to adopt the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, it may wish to consider revising the proposed narrative of that section as follows:

(a) In table 8.8, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

"Provision of quality legal advice to the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, leading to an increased understanding of international law, including the United Nations legal regime."

(b) In table 8.8, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) Quality, timeliness and accuracy of advice;

"(b) Number of instruments finalized;

"(c) Number and impact of opinions rendered on violations of international legal instruments for the conduct of United Nations operations."

(c) In table 8.10 *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

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"(a) Greater protection of the Organization's legal rights and minimization of its legal liabilities, through the provision of quality legal advice to the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, leading to an increased understanding of the Organization's legal rights and obligations;

"(b) Provision of legal advice and support aimed at enabling offices, departments and subsidiary organs to maximize their compliance with regulations, rules and administrative issuances consistent with the Organization's policies and purposes."

(d) In table 8.10, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) Quality, accuracy and timeliness of legal advice and support;

"(b) Number and impact of legal opinions and other legal advice such that the United Nations offices are in a better position to interpret and apply provisions of the United Nations legal regime to specific cases and to comply with such provisions."

(e) In table 8.12, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

"(a) Progress in the formulation and adoption of legal instruments to deal with issues of major international concern;

"(b) Increased knowledge and understanding of public international law;

"(c) Increased use of institutional mechanisms envisaged by international legal instruments."

(f) In table 8.12, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) Increase in the number of new legal instruments emanating from the process of codification, adherence by States to existing instruments; and satisfaction expressed by Member States with the quality, volume and timeliness of documentation prepared by the Codification Division;

"(b) The quality of publications and seminars dealing with issues of international law; an increase in the number of visitors to the Division's web site;

"(c) Frequency of the use of institutional mechanisms by Member States and the timeliness of reports requested by the General Assembly in relevant resolutions."

(g) In table 8.14, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

"(a) Greater respect for and acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the related Agreements; higher degree of uniformity and consistency in their application;

"(b) Increased opportunities for States to derive benefits from the oceans and seas in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."

(h) In table 8.14, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) An increase in the number of legal instruments developed by States and international organizations in the field of the law of the sea and ocean affairs;"

"(b) The degree of satisfaction on the part of Member States, reflected in:

(i) Acknowledgement by Member States that the products and services provided through the subprogramme assisted their maritime programmes;

(ii) Increased participation of Member States in bodies and processes relating to oceans and the law of the sea."

(i) In table 8.16, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

"(a) Modernization of trade practices;

"(b) Reduction of legal uncertainties and obstacles posed by inadequate and disparate laws;

"(c) More efficient trade negotiations;

"(d) Simplification of the administration of transaction and lower transaction costs;

"(e) Reduction of disputes in international trade."

(j) In table 8.16, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) A higher number of transactions or a higher volume of international trade carried out under the regime of UNCITRAL legislative and non-legislative texts;

"(b) An increase in the number of legislative decisions based on UNCITRAL texts;

"(c) An increase in the number of merchants using or relying on harmonized international trade law in conducting trade."

(k) In table 8.18, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

"(a) Improved access to international treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, including their status, and to treaties registered with the Secretariat;

"(b) Respect for the international treaty framework and the advancement of the international rule of law."

(l) In table 8.18, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) Timely processing, registration and publication of international treaties deposited with the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter, and of actions relating to treaties deposited with the Secretary-

General, including the United Nations *Treaty Series*, Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, the monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements and the United Nations *Treaty Series* Cumulative Index; and the timely availability of such information through electronic services;

"(b) Increased application of information obtained through services provided under this subprogramme, including electronic services;

"(c) Greater satisfaction of users with the services provided by the Treaty Section, including electronic services."

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16).

[2] A/56/6 (Sect. 8).